

## Buffalo Bills

# Reed's replacements carrying torch

by MATT KRUEGER  
Reporter

On the day when Andre Reed had his name and number 83 added to the Wall of Fame at Ralph Wilson Stadium, it was the current crop of Bills receivers making the biggest plays.

Just like Reed used to catch passes over the middle and break short connections into long gains, Lee Evans, Peerless Price and Josh Reed took turns helping the Bills spend the Minnesota Vikings, 17-12, Sunday.

Evans, who not only wears Andre Reed's number 83, but plays his first receiver position, resembled the Wall of Fame honoree with his playmaking skills in the game. Throughout the game, he turned short passes from quarterback J.P. Losman into first-down yardage.

Twice during Buffalo's first scoring drive, Evans used his speed and evading ability to get past a defender and gain a couple extra yards to earn a first down. On the first play, Evans head-faked Fred Smoot and dove for the first down marker for a 9-yard gain on second and 8.

Evans finished with seven catches in the game for 90 yards. Afterward, he mentioned how his predecessor told him to represent his number 83.

"He told me to play well, do well for the number," Evans said. "Because even people around town say it. A lot of expectations come with that number."



Buffalo receiver Peerless Price is one of a few pass-catchers making big plays for the Bills this year. His circus-like catch and run Sunday helped seal a

17-12 win over the Minnesota Vikings.

Photo by Patrick McPartland

Andre Reed is the franchise leader in every receiving category. Those are some pretty big shoes to fill for third-year man Evans, who just took over the top receiver slot from the departed Eric Moulds.

"I'm going to keep working and, hopefully, one day, I'll be where he is," Evans said.

While Evans draws the most comparisons to the possible Hall of Famer, it was Peerless Price who made the play of the day.

In the third quarter, with the Bills clinging to a 7-6 lead, Losman flipped a low pass out to Price on the right side. Price caught it, went down to his knees, got up, broke a tackle and sprint-

ed to the end zone for an 8-yard touchdown. It proved to be the game-winner.

"That's a perfect example of never giving up," Price said after the game. "And our whole offense never gave up on that particular play. The guys were out there blocking, hustling, and I was just able to break a tackle and get in

the end zone. But the other 10 guys out there did a heck of a job blocking and holding their guys."

When Price went down to scoop up the ball, he figured scoring would be out of the question. But his eyes got wide when he saw the end zone and just one defender to beat.

"Usually when you're getting up, you figure a guy is coming to knock your head off," he said. "That's what I was expecting, but I was able to get up."

Price had five catches for 40 yards in the game.

Of course, Andre Reed may be in retirement, no longer giving fans the jolt of excitement with a catch-and-run over the middle. But Buffalo has another Reed that is making plays.

Josh Reed had four catches for 43 yards Sunday, including two big catches to help set up Price's touchdown. On second and 20 from the Buffalo 44-yard line, Losman went deep to Reed for a 23-yard gain and a first down. Two plays later, on second and 8, Losman threw an ugly pass to the right, which Reed hauled in for a 10-yard gain.

Second-year receiver Roscoe Parrish also got into the action, catching three passes for 25 yards.

"It's good to get all of us involved, receiver-wise, because we can all make plays," Evans said.

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## Predictions: It's a clean sweep for Chicago over Bills

The Bills surprised most of the Bee staffers Sunday with a 17-12 win over the visiting Minnesota Vikings. Lifestyles reporter Ken Bartolotta was the only one to pick the Bills to win.

This week, Buffalo faces one of the toughest opponents it will meet all year in the Chicago Bears. The Rex Grossman-led Bears are 4-0 and are coming off a stunning 37-6 demolition of Seattle. To make matters worse for the Bills (2-2), the game is at Chicago.

J.P. Losman and the rest of the Buffalo offense will need to be in top form to get the better of Chicago's defense, which has surrendered just 29 points this season.

• For the first time in a long time the Bills were handed a victory and they actually didn't screw it up. It truly is fun watching this team grow, especially J.P. Losman, however this week the Bills play what maybe the best team league in the Bears. One can't expect to go into Soldier Field and beat a team that's playing this good, however if they keep to the game plan and establish some sort of a run the Bills can keep it close. —



Chicago 17, Buffalo 10. Ken Bartolotta, Lifestyles Reporter (3-1)

• For the second consecutive week, J.P. Losman looked like he finally belongs as a starting NFL quarterback. However, the Bills have to find a way to put up more points if they want to be taken seriously, especially against a very good team like Chicago. Losman's improvements just aren't going to be enough to lead Buffalo to victory this week. — Chicago 35, Buffalo 13. Jason Nadolinski, Sports Reporter (2-2)

• The Bills rebounded with a solid

win over Minnesota, and now they may be facing their most difficult competition this season. Everyone knew coming in that the Chicago Bears had a championship-caliber defense, but the emergence of quarterback Rex Grossman, the ability to make deep throws, and a solid running game may mean Chicago is the best team in the NFL. This may be the Bills week to take some lumps. — Chicago 27, Buffalo 13. Chris Gordon, Orchard Park Editor (2-2)

• This week's game against the undefeated Chicago Bears may not

be that fun to watch for the sometimes strong Buffalo Bills. It all depends on what game face our hometown boys will bring to Soldier Field. The team that beat the Dolphins and Vikings stands a winning chance against the unstoppable Bears. But if the defense and offense slip like they did against New England and the Jets, then we will be defeated. As much as I am hoping for a win, my confidence in the team still lacks. — Chicago 27, Buffalo 21. Jill Schmelzer, Lifestyles Coordinator (2-2)

• If Marcus Robinson would have

caught a late TD catch, or the Vikings had 20 more seconds of clock, the Bills would have been heading into Chicago on a two-game losing streak. After seeing Chicago dismantle Seattle there is no chance Buffalo is going to win, especially in the Windy City. — Chicago 30, Buffalo 3. Patrick Nagy, Sports Reporter (2-2)

• The Buffalo defense is picking up and the offense is improving with each week, but Rex Grossman and the rest of the Chicago Bears will be too much for the Bills on the road. Watch for it to go down to the wire, with the Bears pulling out a narrow victory. — Chicago 20, Buffalo 17. Matt Krueger, Sports Reporter (1-3)

• Seeing as how I am picking the Chicago Bears to be in the NFC championship game, I think it would be a pretty safe bet to say the Bills are going to get mauled on Sunday. The Bears are literally ripping their way through the NFL. Despite J.P. Losman's better performance and Willis McGahee's league-leading stats, the Bills will be no match for Chicago. — Chicago 36, Buffalo 14. Nick Primerano, Ken-Ton Editor (1-3)

## Reed honored to be going on the Bills' wall

by CHRISTOPHER GORDON  
Orchard Park Editor

When former Buffalo Bills wide receiver Andre Reed was drafted by the team in the fourth round in 1985 out of Division II school Kutztown State in Pennsylvania, he knew he had an uphill battle to climb to make it in the National Football League.

During his first training camp, quarterback Vince Ferragamo threw a pass to the man at that time wearing number 46. Reed caught the ball, got hit and flipped over, but held onto the ball.

"Right then I knew I belonged," said Reed.

He made the team, changed his number

to 83 and the rest as they say — is history.

After enduring a 2-14 record in Reed's rookie year, the Bills fortunes began to turn around in August of 1986 when the team signed quarterback Jim Kelly from the United States Football League.

In their first regular season game together against the New York Jets, Reed caught a touchdown pass from Kelly.

Reed went on to catch 64 more touchdowns from Kelly until the quarterback retired after the 1996 season, and the pair are in the top five all-time in quarterback and receiver combinations for both touchdowns and receptions.

The receiver admitted it took time to

develop the chemistry, but said when he did, it became total trust between he and his Hall of Fame quarterback.

The all-time leading receiver in Bills history in catches, yards and touchdowns, Reed said he was excited to find out he was being placed on the Bills Wall of Fame at Ralph Wilson Stadium at halftime of the game against the Minnesota Vikings.

"I had to gear myself up for this ever since I got the Wall of Fame call from Ralph Wilson, (the Bills owner)," said Reed. "It's been first class."

He was also honored Sept. 28 by the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to the team at its second annual Bills homecoming celebration.

"I get the same reception every time I come here. It brings you back to when you played," said Reed.

Steve Tasker, who made his mark as arguably the greatest special teams player in the history of the game, said Reed was a great teammate as he introduced Reed at the Orchard Park Chamber event.

"I have known Andre for 20 years," said Tasker, who said the two became very close in their 12 seasons together.

"Andre was a young player like I was. I knew Andre when he had Jheri curls. It's like a black man's mullet with curls," Tasker joked, causing Reed to laugh.

Tasker said what made Reed a great

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